THE MARY BRICKELL GARDEN CLUB

MEMBER APPLICATION ANNUAL DUES: \$20,00

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ROADS NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY OUTLINE

- 1. The Roads neighborhood was originally part of the Polly Lewis donation to the City of Miami. We have not been able to learn much about Ms. Lewis or her donation.
- 2. Mary Brickell dedicated a plat of the Brickell Hammock area to the City of Miami on Monday January 10, 1922. That Friday (the 13th) she died. Included in the plat and in her will was the design of having median "parks", as they were originally designated, in the center of the residential streets.
- 3. A land auction was held in a tent at S.W. 25 Road and 2nd Ave. on Feburary 1, 1923. For approximately two weeks before that date full page ads were placed in the daily newspapers. In reference to the area's proximity to the "Millionaire's Row" the ads had headlines such as "Dont Be Afraid of Millionaires (they make good neighbors)", "Let the Millions of Thirty Millionaires Work for You", "Buy in the Section That Made Miami Famous", etc. We have been unable to obtain standard (letter or legal) size copies of these ads and have tried to "cut and paste" the complete ads from the inferior partial page copies available from the public library.
- 4. The Florida State Archives has provided excellent photos of the land clearing in the area and of the auction. These photos show the Brickell Hammock parkways in place fifteen years before the medians in Coral Way which have been designated by the State as scenic and historic. It also seems that there were medians on Coral Way in the Brickell Hammock area prior to the trolly car construction at about this same time. The current Coral Way medians were planted in 1938 when the trolly was removed.
- 5. At about this same time (1923) the Holloman Park and Brickell Estates subdivisions were being promoted and developed. We have as of yet found little information as to how this took place. We have found some ads for Holloman Park in the papers at the same time as the Brickell Hammock auction ads but we have had similar difficulties reproducing them.
- 6. Sometime, apparently in the 1930's the Holloman Park, Brickell Hammock, and Brickell Estates developments began to be collectively known as the Roads. Newspaper articles written at least as far back as 1960 have documented the unique geography, features, and ethnic diversity of the neighborhood. It has been very difficult to locate these articles without some type of subject index for the newspaper.

Thank you for your interest in our community.

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